



City of Biggs

Agenda Item Staff Report for the Regular City Council Meeting: February 28, 2011 6:00PM

DATE: February 22, 2011

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Pete Carr, City Administrator

SUBJECT: Fire Department Discussion about Dispatch Services
(Discussion/Information)

Fire chief requests opportunity to discuss dispatch services with city council. No action is requested at this time.

Background

Fire dispatch services are currently covered under the annual CalFire agreement for services. Recent changes directed from State fire authorities suggests consideration of a revised approach at the local level.

Chief Mike Brown requests ten minutes to discuss this with the city council. He will be accompanied by Battalion Chief David Hawks.

Attachments: CalFire informational documents (2 pages)

Recommendation

None

Fiscal Impact

None



CAL FIRE Emergency Command Center

Providing fire and rescue dispatch services to the Cities of Biggs, Gridley and Oroville, County of Butte, El Medio Fire Protection District, Mooretown Rancheria and the CAL FIRE Butte Unit.

CAL FIRE statutory responsibility:

To meet the state responsibility for protection from wildland fires in the state responsibility area of Butte County, CAL FIRE provides the core staffing and supervision of the Emergency Command Center. The state funds; one Battalion Chief, three Fire Captains and one half of a Communications Operator to meet the core state mission. Additional staffing is required to provide service to local government fire agencies.

Local Government Fire Dispatch Service Provided by CAL FIRE to:

City of Biggs, Gridley and Oroville
El Medio Fire Protection District
Mooretown Rancheria
County of Butte

Funding provided by local government partners provides the additional staffing required to operate the Emergency Command Center around the clock and year around, 24/7/365.

Cost of Dispatch Service per call paid by each Local Government

Local Government Fire Department	Average Number of Calls	Average Cost/Call
City of Biggs	120	\$0.00
City of Gridley	622	\$64.30
City of Oroville	3,800	\$51.80
El Medio Fire Dist.	940	\$50.00
Mooretown	75	\$50.00
County of Butte	10,569	\$54.41

Per Call Cost of Dispatch Service:

The minimum fee per call for those entities that pay by the call is \$50.00.

Future Plan for Cooperative Dispatch Services via a JPA:

The long term plan includes a countywide fire dispatch provided by the CAL FIRE ECC through a Joint Power Agreement (JPA) whereby the local governments would pay a proportional share of the cost of dispatch services on top of what CAL FIRE funds.



CAL FIRE Emergency Command Center

Providing fire and rescue dispatch services to the Cities of Biggs, Gridley and Oroville, County of Butte, El Medio Fire Protection District and the CAL FIRE Butte Unit.

CAL FIRE through the Emergency Command Center (ECC) in Oroville provides dispatch services to a number of Fire Departments in Butte County through varying contracts. The larger entities contract for services by funding positions within the dispatch center commensurate with their call volume. The smaller entities such as El Medio reimburse by paying a per call fee for dispatch services.

The City of Biggs in cooperation with Butte County has a long standing contract with CAL FIRE to provide fire protection to the City of Biggs and surrounding unincorporated area. Despite this long standing relationship for fire protection the cost for dispatching services within the City of Biggs has not been included in the contract with CAL FIRE.

CAL FIRE can no longer continue to provide service at no cost; resources code requires that the cost of service be neutral to CAL FIRE. The current average cost per call for dispatch services is \$50.00 per call.

Below is a chart that shows the call volume for the City of Biggs over the past nine years. On average at 118 calls over the 9 year period at \$50.00/call would be an annual reimbursement of \$5,900.

Fiscal Year	Incident Totals	Fee Per Call	Avg Cost/Call
2002	134	\$0.00	\$0.00
2003	125	\$0.00	\$0.00
2004	134	\$0.00	\$0.00
2005	98	\$0.00	\$0.00
2006	122	\$0.00	\$0.00
2007	114	\$0.00	\$0.00
2008	122	\$0.00	\$0.00
2009	121	\$0.00	\$0.00
2010	92	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average	118	\$50.00	\$5,900.00

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